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SUBJECT Organization of Mass Agitation in Shop
25X1A Groups

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The following information comes from a lecture given by (fnu) Retschlag, SED functionary in charge of the Mass Agitation Section of SED District Friedrichshain, Headquarters (Landesverband Gross Berlin), on 8 October 1949 before a gathering of mass agitation functionaries of that district.

1. The successful discharge of one of the essential tasks of Abteilung Massenagitation within shop groups, viz. to keep the party posted on prevailing sentiment in the plants, requires the organization of a special information-gathering Apparatus.
2. Bulk reports conveying an erroneous or disingenuous picture of true conditions should be eschewed and the quest of the Party for revealing information on the true state of public opinion, of particular value as the basis for effective propaganda, should be satisfied. It would obviously be ineffective to send a shop group secretary or a party functionary, who was known as such, through the various departments of the plant in order to question his fellow workers on their opinions. Rather a comprehensive picture should be obtained from the arguments advanced, particularly by oppositional elements, in the course of discussions at the plant.
3. This entails the activation of a special party Apparatus designed to furnish the mass agitation functionary of the shop group with speedy and reliable information on the true state of opinion in the plant. This Apparatus, which would cover all sections of the plant, would provide the appropriate functionary with a daily report on the prevailing state of opinion as brought out in discussions at the plant. The shop group functionary in turn would report to the district mass agitation functionary, and subsequently to the shop group secretary. In reporting, special emphasis is to be placed on essential political problems of the day (Schwerpunktfragen).
4. The Apparatus will be organized and developed by the mass agitation functionary of the shop group in closest cooperation with other

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Apparat functionaries, and personnel selections will be made in conformance with standards of reliability and class-consciousness. Special pains must be taken to conceal the identity of Apparat workers, even from other party members. A further responsibility of the mass agitation functionary will be the training of Apparat members for their special task.

5. Once the information service performs flawlessly, small agitation teams will be activated and committed in the plant. These teams will be charged with the task of starting exemplary discussions, designed in every respect skillfully to acquaint the indifferent segment of the staff with the party line. These teams should be staffed particularly with qualified graduates of district and shop group party schools.
6. The two branches of Abteilung Massenagitation, information and agitation, can at a later stage be amalgamated by the district group into a special Agitationsaktiv, to be kept available for special assignments.

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